

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 14, and 19-22 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1, 9, 14, and 20-22 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 9, 14, and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the owner's manual of the Roland VS-1680 Digital Studio Workstation ("Roland"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As previously communicated, the present invention is directed to multi-track recording/reproducing devices (and computer program for using with) for recording and reproducing soundtracks. The present invention facilitates automatic prioritization amongst the tracks when some of the tracks are to be used for recording and some of the tracks are to be used for reproduction such that the setting of tracks for recording supersedes the setting of tracks for reproduction. Specifically, during operation of the present invention, when an increasing number of tracks are sequentially designated as recording tracks, the limit of the allowable number of tracks to be used for reproduction is concurrently decreased; tracks for which reproduction are no longer allowed are automatically muted. Similarly, a user is effectively restricted in the designation of the number of tracks for reproduction such that the number of tracks designated for reproduction cannot exceed the limit set in accordance with the recording operation.

With respect to Claims 1, 14, and 19 Roland fails to disclose or suggest prioritizing between recording tracks and reproduction tracks, and the automatic muting of reproduction tracks as recited in the claims of the present application. Rather, Roland simply discloses the ability by the user to simultaneously designate a plurality of tracks for recording or for reproduction. Again, as previously communicated, Roland discloses switching the condition "SOURCE", "REC", "PLAY",

or "OFF" for each track each time the "STATUS" button is pressed. That is, Roland merely limits the number of tracks in which the track condition of "REC" or "SOURCE" is specified regardless of the setting of tracks to be used for simultaneous recording or the setting of tracks to be used for simultaneous reproduction.

With respect to Claim 20, Roland does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of a channel-path display control section as recited in the claim, wherein the display control section causes graphical display of information relating to a selected mixing input channel, status of setting of each of an input patch section, mixing selection section, and a recording selection section, and wherein the graphical display is arranged along a transfer path of the audio data (see, e.g., Fig. 6 of the present application). Rather, Roland (at page 61) simply shows a display screen in which only a setting state of a "recording selection section" is displayed.

The present invention according to Claim 21 recites connecting the mixing input channels to the desired input sections via an input patch section (see, e.g., Fig. 3 of the present application). Roland does not disclose or suggest an input patch section. Rather, Roland simply discloses the provision of input channels and track channels. In Roland, in order to record signals supplied from the input channels, the signals must be inputted to the recording tracks via a recording bus.

With respect to Claim 22, Roland does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of a collection setting section, as recited in the amended claim, wherein the settings for an input patch and a recording selector are collectively carried out in response to a single operation by the user (e.g., via operation of an "EXECUTE" button).

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 9, 14, and 19-22 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Roland.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendments after final office action is respectfully requested. If it is determined that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 393032027300. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

David T. Yang

Registration No.: 44,415
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
555 W. Fifth Street, Suite 3500
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 892-5587
Attorneys for Applicant